(c) Bank robberies/decoities, to a considerable extent, depend on the general security enviornment in the locality. Banks, however, have been taking steps to improve their security arrangements so as to offer as little inducement as possible to miscreants to rob the banks and also to deter them. As this is a continuous process, security measures implemented by Public Sector Banks are being reviewed from time to time and whenever further improvements are considered necessary, requisite guidelines/instructions are given to the Banks.

French offer of help in the Light combat Aircraft

2715. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether France has offered help to India in Light Combat Aircraft Project;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s AMD-BA of France carried out an independent feasibility study on the LCA. The firm has also offered to provide consultancy/assistance during the Project Definition Phase of the programme.

(c) A contract will be signed with the firm to be selected.

***Discontinuance of the Life Insurance* Corporation policies**

2716. SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who took out new policies of the Life Insurance Corporation during the last three years; and

(b) the number of policy holders who had failed to Pay their instalments of the premium and subsequently forfeited a part of the amount already paid by them on the discontinuance of their policies and withdrew the refundable amounts during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The new policies issued in India by LIC during the last three years were as under:—

1983-84	....	23,66,057
1984-85	....	26,99,654
1985-86	....	32,85,607

(b) The number of policies surrendered to or forfeited in India by LIC during the last three years after discontinuance of premium payment were as under:—

	No. of Policies	
	Surrendered	Forfeited
1983-84	2,46,866	7,83,435
1984-85	2,48,363	8,27,119
1985-86	2,70,438	9,44,625